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 **ABRAVES**

## Education: support tool for epidemiological surveillance system in wild boar.

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### Introduction

Epidemiological surveillance in wild boar has gained special importance in the disease surveillance system around the world (1), especially with the recent outbreaks of African swine fever in Germany (2) and Italy (3), both involving wild boars in the spread of the virus. In Brazil, MAPA's integrated swine disease surveillance plan (4) demonstrates the epidemiological importance of wild boars. In the state of São Paulo, the Secretaria de Agricultura e Abastecimento (SAA) regulated the epidemiological surveillance, transport and destination of wild boar carcasses and crosses with the publication of SAA Resolution nº 41, of May 29, 2021, to give wide dissemination, sensitize, educate and clarify the Controllors of Invasive Exotic Species (CEEIs) the Coordenadoria de Defesa Agropecuária (CDA) held two circuits of health training events for these central and fundamental actors for the success of the epidemiological surveillance network. The aim of this study is to describe how education focused on One Health approach was essential to attract the interest and participation of CEEIs in the events.

### Materials and Methods

The events were organized together with the leaders of the CEEIs, representatives of groups and control teams, associations, municipal political leaders and, above all, the "Aqui tem javali" network, essential for dissemination of the training courses for the target audience. SAA Resolution nº 41/2021 emphasizes in the article 10 the need for training of CEEIs on how to identify the most frequent clinical signs and lesions of the main diseases, especially hemorrhagic (classical swine fever and African swine fever) and vesicular (foot-and-mouth disease) diseases, and how to report suspicions of these diseases, as well as abnormal wild boar mortality, to the Official Veterinary Service (SVO). In addition, the CEEIs are trained on how to collect blood serum samples for laboratory tests and how to send it to CDA. The training was carried out with expositive lectures lasting 4 hours, given by CDA veterinarians. The lecture was prepared based on the SAA resolution nº41/2021 for the presentation of the legal regulation, images of lesions and clinical signs of diseases, videos, technical and scientific content. All events were organized during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, respecting prevention protocols and held between September 2021 and January 2022.

### Results

Twenty-five courses were held in different regions of São Paulo State, with the participation of 2381 CEEIs, with an average of 95 participants per course. The Figure 1 shows a wide geographic distribution in 375 municipalities with at least one trained CEEIs.

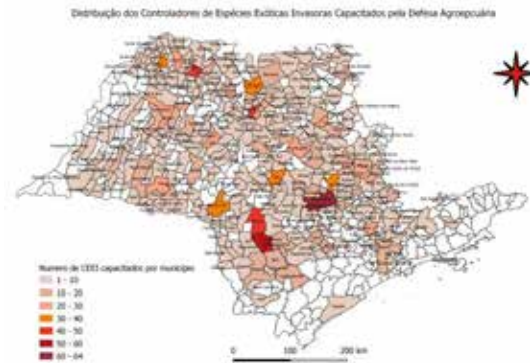


Figure 1. Spatial distribution by municipality of CEEIs trained by the CDA.

### Discussion and Conclusion

The events achieved the objective of attracting and delivering technical information to the CEEIs to start the epidemiological surveillance network. The map elaborated made it possible to identify regions that have not yet been covered and to guide the organization of complementary events, however these regions without qualified CEEIs coincide with regions with the absence or little presence of wild boar and their crosses. The training, in addition to providing a lot of relevant information for the prevention of diseases with zoonotic potential, also raised awareness of the risks of spreading diseases of economic interest to agribusiness and society as a whole, certainly made the surveillance system more robust and sensitive for detection early disease. The focus on health had a perfect fit with wild boar, as they move freely, modify the environment, interact with domestic pigs, cattle, dogs, and people in handling and consuming the carcasses, this approach was very attractive to CEEIs (5). Complementary studies are needed to evaluate the learning on knowledge and behavior change of trained CEEIs (6).

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Rede Aqui tem javali.

Associação Manejo Fauna Invasora (AMFI)

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